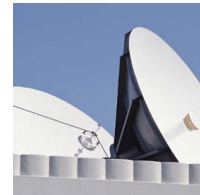




CYBER/COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE ATTACK

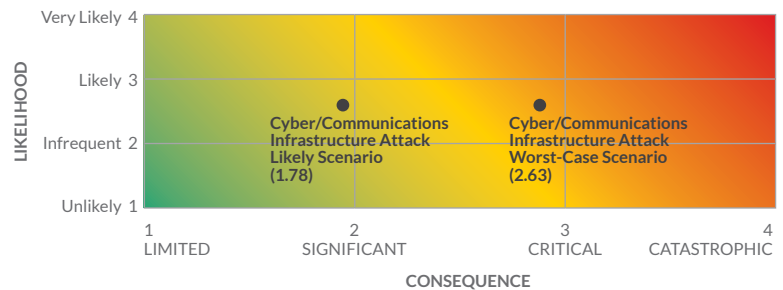


A Cyber/Communications Infrastructure Attack is an intentional disruption or manipulation of the information and communication systems used to collect, filter, process, create, and distribute data. A Cyber/Communications Infrastructure Attack may seek to impact data or physical infrastructure.

HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

There has never been a successful emergency-level attack on Government Cyber/Communications Infrastructure in Howard County. However, Howard County experiences frequent attacks that result in user impact, loss of access to information systems, and the need to repair or replace hardware or software. There are more than 3,000 minor damaging Cyber/Communications Infrastructure Attacks in Howard County each year.

RISK MATRIX



WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

There is an expected **1-30% Annual Likelihood** of a Cyber/Communications Infrastructure Attack hazard in Howard County. In the most likely Cyber/Communications Infrastructure Attack scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant**. In the worst-case scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Significant-Critical**.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The initial Cyber/Communications Infrastructure Attack may only take several minutes. However, it can take hours, days, or even weeks to identify and control the hazard.
- Cyber/Communications Infrastructure Attack hazards can impact anywhere from a single computer to data networks spreading across the entire country.
- General phishing attacks, searches for protected data, and system exploits allowing the entry of harmful software may take place thousands of times each day.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment readyhoco.com/hazards
- Federal Emergency Management Agency ready.gov/cyber-attack
- Federal Emergency Management Agency fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/hsgp/fy09_hsgp_cyber.pdf

LOCAL RISK OVERVIEW

Future Likelihood	Infrequent-Likely 1-30% chance of annual occurrence	
Impact	MOST-LIKELY	WORST-CASE
	Limited-Significant	Significant-Critical
Risk Score	2.26	2.71
Risk Ranking (High to Low)	Ranked #9 of 16 man-made hazards.	

CYBER/COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE ATTACK IMPACT

Where no Worst-Case bar is visible, Worst-Case impact is equivalent to Likely Impact

